

FAMILY: in shock over murder

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sources. Crosby had his first appearance in court Monday, Aug. 16.

"They always appeared to be the model couple," Harvey said. "They never had any problems before. No previous problems that we knew of with domestic violence. It's just a shock to everybody. The family, her friends, everybody!"

Gaylain was a clinical psychologist who worked to help others at Phoenix Counseling. "She worked with kids and lived doing it, so she could help them," he said.

According to Cleveland County authorities, Crosby admitted to strangling his wife of many years.

"Our family was large; 11 children," said both Chris and Harvey. "We had just come back from a family reunion in Dayton, OH, which lasted from July 29 until Aug. 1."

The Crosby's daughter Tia, is their only child, according to Harvey, and is in her last year at UNC-Chapel Hill. "She's in shock, to say the least!" he added.

Harvey said his sister graduated from Cherryville High School. "She played on the basketball team from '76-'77, I believe. She then attended the University of NC Central, then went to Appalachian State to get her Master's in Psychology.

"She met Joe there, while she was working on her Master's. He played football at Appie State," Harvey said.

"I don't have any animosity toward Joe. We all liked him.

I just want to know 'why'? If I could talk to him, that's what I'd ask him," Harvey said, shaking his head.

'WE HOLD NO MALICE': say grieving family members

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character," she added. Sara Ager, a neighbor of the Crosbys in the Mary's Grove Community in rural Cleveland County, said the community is in shock.

"We read about domestic violence but theirs was a happy family, Joe loved 'Aggie' and they loved their daughter Tia," said a grief-stricken Deborah Terry.

Added Deborah, "We kidded them about being the Bobbsey trio because they always did things together."

Tia Crosby, 21, is staying with family members at the West Gold Street home in Kings Mountain of Deborah and Tyrone Terry. She didn't know anything was wrong, she told her aunt, until police arrived Saturday morning at their Mary's Grove Church Road home. Tia and her parents had gone out to dinner, as was their custom on Friday night, returned from Charlotte to watch a movie and then went to bed shortly before 1 a.m.

"It must have happened in a matter of 10 minutes; this is in God's hands now," said Mrs. Terry.

Gaylain Crosby was a clinical psy-

chologist for Phoenix Counseling in Shelby and worked with kids in the juvenile justice department, and also served as a court advocate for youth on Thursdays. She was formerly with Pathways and worked in group homes in Cleveland and Gaston counties.

Family and co-workers said working with the less fortunate was her love. Tia, a senior at UNC in Chapel Hill majoring in International Studies, is also minoring in law and wants to follow her mother's example to help others.

The 8th of 11 children of Harvey Degree of Cherryville and the late Margie Degree, Mrs. Crosby graduated from Cherryville High School and NC Central University in Durham. She earned her master's degree at Appalachian State University where she met her husband. After their marriage 23 years ago he worked at Timken for a number of years and recently went back to school at Gaston College.

The Degree children were reared in the Degree home place on Mary's Grove Church Road. They included Harvey, Wayne, Xavier, Chris, Kepton, Philbert and Shawn Degree, Gaylain Degree Crosby, Deborah Degree Terry,

Michelle Degree Johnson and Lisa Degree. At an early age their parents taught the children "to hug", reared them in a Christian home and encouraged them to have fun together.

"God's time is not our time," said Mrs. Terry. "We don't know what happened. We want to see Tia graduate from college. Tia wants to be of help to her Dad, she loves him."

The Terrys and their children, Brandon, who recently finished a five year stint with Uncle Sam's Navy and is in the criminal justice program at Gaston College, and Taylor, a freshman student at NC Central University, have opened their home to relatives and friends this weekend as they prepare for the funeral Saturday at Malcolm Brown Auditorium on the campus of Shelby High School. Quiet time is from noon until 1 p.m. Rev. Dean Wray and Rev. Thurman Clark will officiate the service and interment will be in Cleveland Memorial Park in Shelby.

Genesis Funeral Service of Shelby is in charge of funeral arrangements.

The Terrys ask for prayer for the whole family.

SCHOOLS: make repairs

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Grover Elementary - Perimeter fence work, security, re-finishing the gym floor, Smart Start building roof repairs, and unforeseen underlayment deterioration are the completed projects and encumbered renovations include electronic door hardware, new controlled security entrance, paint materials and interior painting complete at two buildings.

North Elementary - replacement roof top HVAC unit of-fice, interior painting one wing, new computer lab cabinetry and installation of automatic doors, all completed, and electronic door hardware, new controlled security entrance and library R/R 5 roof-top HVAC units in the works.

West Elementary - interior painting one wing, remove for safety one tree Goforth/King streets, completed; and in the works new controlled security system and electronic door hardware and paint materials for painting projects.

KM High - Gamble Stadium cane and bucket truck, cut/remove trees, relocate fence, widen entrance drive to main building, completed sand down refinish main gym, water boiler system, 5 roof top HVAC units, interior painting main building lower level, BIT building security privacy fence, repair damaged sidewalk, domestic hot water boiler, resurface asphalt tennis courts, replace fencing tennis courts, fence/gate repairs both stadiums, new court surfacing, paint lines, paint 10 foot poles tennis court, mini gym two pair exterior doors back, athletic department dorma lock-in system, Barnes Auditorium one pair exterior doors rear, 18 replacement sky lights, all completed. Install main drain pool covers, athletic training room steel doors, ceiling tiles and lighting fixtures, BIT building 10-feet-by-6 steps concrete, front doors, three sets, full glass at Barnes, roof replacement main structure three areas, refinish gym floor, Gamble Stadium track paving.

KM Intermediate - Main building roof repair/storm insurance and canopy roof repair/ storm insurance, new controlled security entrance and electronic door hardware in the works.

KM Middle School - Re-installation electrical HVAC project, replacement HVAC unit 7th grade building, replacement roof top HVAC unit office, R/R 5 roof top HVAC units, crane for HVAC unit placement, replace mini blinds for 23 windows, construct soundproof walls for media center, 32 windows in two story building, all completed. In the works: bathroom renovation, ceiling lights and lighting fixtures.

A number of school projects are proposed including \$20,000 for painting Section A of KMHS Barnes Auditorium and a \$12,940 heat unit with heat pump for East Elementary School and painting kindergarten building classrooms at West Elementary.

RENOVATION: for new restaurant could begin in Sept.

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Bobby Horne of Campbell & Campbell of NC LLC, who was involved in the redevelopment of downtown's J Olivers and Alliance Bank, will oversee the renovation project.

Pending approval of grants, Campbell & Campbell could begin renovation as soon as September 17 with a goal of putting a vacant property back to performing use, improve the appearance and the integrity of the property and provide below market rate rent for new business startups. Campbell & Campbell, which includes Bobby Horne and Scott Campbell, would subdivide the main floor of the 218 Railroad building to provide 3,000 square feet for the new Jax restaurant with the remaining space being marketed as retail.

Stuart Thompson of Spar-

row Eye Creative will begin/continue operating remotely until his anticipated office space can be ready. Design and permitting should take two months and be completed by December.

Construction should begin on the main floor restaurant space in January 2011 with completion of the restaurant shell for JAX Tavern for up-fit by May 2011 and completion by September 2011.

Construction of a second story office space would begin in March of next year with office tenants assuming occupancy by July 2011.

Pending grant approval, a target date for opening in Kings Mountain is Oct. 1, 2011.

The Kings Mountain Jax Tavern would provide 80-100 seats for casual dining while the adjacent Old Stone Steak House would provide a more formal dining option.

Along with the Steak House, Jax would incorporate the unique history of Kings Mountain downtown through such things as wall mural wraps. New fixtures, furniture and equipment for JAX would amount to \$150,000-plus with 27 full time jobs anticipated.

The proposed steak house, a nearly million dollar project, was funded \$96,000 by the N.C. Rural Center but the city and Mountaineer Partnership have applied for another grant and city planning director Steve Killian said he had not yet received word of its approval.

"This project combines the synergy of small businesses which have the potential to make a positive impact on our community," said Gina Collias, of Kings Mountain, a lawyer and licensed North Carolina realtor who echoed other

developers writing about their plans for economic development in applications for grant funding. Collias wants to occupy one of the new offices for a commercial real estate brokerage business (SG6 Enterprises).

Adam Hines, Executive Director of The Mountaineer Partnership Inc., said that MPI has worked diligently to submit the revised application and is pleased that a restaurant and two professional offices are committed to the project, with MPI also adding a construction partner with experience in the downtown market.

The project is a partnership between Campbell & Campbell of NC LLC, Bobby Horne Construction and Design, SG6 Enterprises, Sparrow Eye Creative, JAX Backstreet Tavern, the City of Kings Mountain and The Mountaineer Partnership.

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